

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT

OFFICIAL
ORGAN
OF THE
INDEPENDENT
THEATRES
ASSOCIATION

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Toronto, January 15, 1938

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MERGER RUMORS KILLED

EDIT VIEWS

FIRST RUN?

It is high time some serious thinking and some loud talking be done about the relationship between radio and screen entertainment. These two mediums are becoming more and more intertwined to what may well be the partial undoing of the exhibition business.

Not only are screen artists and screen plays presented via the radio at hours that collide seriously with the peak theatre admission periods, but also, the hit songs of feature pictures are plugged on air programs for weeks before the release of the picture for which these songs were written.

The wear and tear that radio trillers inflict on any poor little popular song is terrific! The result is, that when the song is finally projected from the screen, it is stale, flat, and in a large degree unprofitable.

Now, first-run customers, paying top prices for virgin entertainment, expect freshness, surprise, a cellophane-wrapped product untouched by human hands or inhuman vocal chords. They have a right to it. They get instead, threadbare, tattered, worn-out musical fare that spreads the taint of staleness over an otherwise fresh show.

(Continued on Page 2)

Current Hits

True Confession.
Submarine D-1.
First Lady.
Navy Blue and Gold.
The Firefly.
Hurricane.

Anti-Trust Move On M. P. Industry In Washington

U.S. Attorney - General Cummings has asked for adequate funds for the enforcement of new anti-trust laws that may be enacted, and intimated that the Motion Picture industry has thus far escaped prosecutions under the present anti-trust laws because of a policy of pursuing only the most flagrant cases of mon-

(Continued on Page 3)

Dominion Films Included In Quota

Films made in any of the Dominions of the British Empire will count in the English film quota as British pictures.

A move to exclude Dominion-made product as part of the quota was squashed by the Harding committee after a heated debate.

The amendment aiming at exclusion was backed by British technicians' unions presumably against American companies who would produce in Canada for quota purposes using Canadian technicians.

Montreal Censor Cuts "Confession"

Three scenes were deleted from "True Confession," Paramount Picture, and a trailer ordered by the censor stating that "the courtroom scenes herein depicted should be construed as fiction only and could not occur in a Canadian Court of Justice." England passed the film without changes.

Much talked of deal between Associated Theatres Ltd. and Exhibitors Booking Association officially denied.

Professor Brunt Condemns Quebec Censorship

Prof. H. D. Brunt, head of the department of English at Macdonald College condemns the Quebec film censorship as "illogical, inconsistent and unintelligent." He says further that the present censorship "destroys the sense of whole pictures" by the wholesale

(Continued on Page 4)

Maxwell Charges Fraud In Union Cinemas \$11,000,000 Inflation

At the first annual shareholders meeting of the largest British theatre chain, president Maxwell, hurled a bombshell, charging Union Cinema with inflating the value, of its holdings by \$11,000,000 previous to the October merger with Associated British, to influence the deal. The meeting was turned into an uproar when Maxwell presented his accusations claiming that an examination of Union Cin-

(Continued on Page 2)

27 Canadian Stations Take New Series

Lever Brothers have added 27 stations of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to the network broadcasting the Lifebuoy and Rinso series beginning January 4.

Mr. N. A. Taylor, general manager of Exhibitors Booking Association, in an interview at his Toronto office today officially spiked all rumors that an amalgamation between his company and Associated Theatres Limited would take place.

He admitted that there had been negotiations toward effecting such a merger, the motive being the strengthening of the buying power of these two servicing and buying companies. This, Nat Taylor, feels, would have been of great benefit to the individual exhibitors booking through these offices.

"The hooking-up" Mr. Taylor said, "of the forty-one theatres now being serviced by Exhibitors Booking Ass'n. with the fifty-two on the Associated chain would combine to make a powerful buying unit, and it is my opinion that we would have been in a better position to service independent exhibitors than ever before. Also I feel, that new strength would have been given to the independent faction in the Canadian industry with which to achieve conciliation. I look upon the massing of buying power as the most effective means of bargaining and as a powerful tool for achieving a more even balance in the motion picture industry generally."

During negotiations, how-

(Continued on Page 3)

Held Over In Toronto

Tovarich.
The Firefly.

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT

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EDIT VIEWS

(Continued from Page 1)

Recently we went to see "Damsel in Distress" in its first-run opening. To our way of thinking there were others just as distressed as the damsel by all of the doings and undosings. One reason for this distress was that Fred Astaire was kept so busy with the rescue work that he had no time to dance. The fog that dimmed one of his numbers seemed to permeate much of the procedure, but the great blight that snuffed the sunshine out of the production as a whole was the staleness of such numbers as "Nice Work If You Can Get It" because it had already been worn to rags by radio singers.

We came to the painful conclusion that the real distress in "Damsel in Distress" arose from the fact that a rape had been perpetrated. The picture was no longer virgin. The radio had robbed it of that quality of freshness that cash customers have a right to expect when they lay their coin down on the wicket ledge, especially the first-run customers who pay a premium for that very quality.

o o o

Producers who give or sell their songs and plots to air shows are not giving away advertising samples to develop a taste for their product in potential customers, but giving away doses large enough to glut the appetite of the customers. This is bound to interfere with

New York Film Critics
Name "Best"Paul Muni, Greta Garbo
and Director La Cava
Honoured

The New York Film Critics have made their selection for 1937 awards for outstanding work in motion pictures.

Warner Bros. "The Life of Emile Zola" was doubly honored, as it was named the most distinguished motion picture of the year, while Paul Muni, who played the title role, was selected as the actor who gave the best performance of the year.

Greta Garbo was honored as the actress who gave the finest performance of the year for her work in "Camille," while Gregory LaCava received acclaims as the outstanding director for his work in "Stage Door."

The French picture "May-erling" starring Charles Boyer and Danielle Darrieux was selected as the best foreign-language film of the year.

Awards consisted of a medal to Warner Bros. and inscribed scrolls for all other winners.

UNION CINEMA CASE

(Continued from Page 1)

emas books revealed "manipulation of the balance sheets." A degree of order was restored by a decision to have a complete investigation of the books by means of a new audit. It was agreed that legal steps be suspended until checkup is completed. The merger of Union Cinema's 300 theatres with Associated British holdings of over 300 houses created the largest exhibition chain in England.

the subsequent market value of their own product.

And the vendor of the product, the exhibitor, faces the problem not only of competing with free air shows, but of selling the same material for cash when it is much the worse for wear.

Korda To Sue Pickford,
Chaplin, Fairbanks On
Misrepresentation Charge

Alexander Korda has stated that he will quit United Artists as a part owner and producer, and sue Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks for misrepresenting the U. A. set-up at the time they persuaded him to join them and Samuel Goldwyn in the ownership of the Company about two and a half years ago.

Korda, it is said, has no quarrel with Goldwyn, but that there was nothing left for him to do other than break with the Company that refused to adjust his contract to conform to the working arrangement mapped out at the time he joined the organization.

It was represented to him at that time said Korda, that each member of U.A. would hold up his or her end of the production burden with Goldwyn and himself; that Pickford, Chaplin and Fairbanks undertook to each make a certain number of pictures a year, that none of them has contributed a single picture from that time to this. Changes sought by Korda in his contract were for a reduction of the percentage charged against his pictures for distribution cost and for permission to use his Denham studio to make pictures to be released by other Companies, thereby helping to cover the over-

Loew's London
Theatres Show Gain

Loew's Theatres of London, Ont., showed a cash balance of \$67,000 at the end of the year, as compared with a \$38,592 balance at the end of the fiscal year, August 26.

President, M. Aylesworth, read the financial statement at the annual meeting of shareholders, but stated that chances for a dividend on common stock were remote as the preferred dividend is still four years in arrears.

head of running a big plant. The 30 percent charged against him for the release of his pictures, was considered by Korda to be excessive as the cost of distribution ran closer to 9 percent and that item of profit alone was said to have made U.A. a profit of \$1,800,000 last year.

The privilege of releasing additional Denham product to outside distributors was first granted, then withdrawn, when Samuel Goldwyn claimed the same privilege.

Subsequent to the disagreement Korda is said to have stated that if necessary, he would surrender his unit of ownership for his release. It is thought that such a move would completely liquidate London Films. Mr. Korda has returned to London to talk to those interested with him in that Company.



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MERGER ABANDONED

(Continued from Page 1)

ever, several insurmountable obstacles to the plan became apparent and negotiations were terminated on a friendly note.

Nat Taylor was instrumental in organizing Associated Theatres Ltd., when in 1931, he merged his Exhibitors' Cooperative of Canada Ltd. with Community Theatres of Canada Ltd. to form Associated Theatres Ltd. in which company he functioned as assistant general manager and buyer until his resignation in 1935.

He then formed Exhibitors Booking Ass'n. in partnership with Mr. R. Auerbach. This booking association has made very rapid strides since its inception.

Nat Taylor was one of the originators of cooperative buying in Canada, helping to organize Exhibitors' Cooperative Ltd. in 1928, of which he was secretary-treasurer. His experience in buying for independents covers a period of almost a decade. He is very strongly of the opinion that independent buying should not be done on an individual basis but should be bulked, as far as possible, into one large organization. This attitude was the underlying motive in Mr. Taylor's pursuing of the proposed amalgamation between his present company and Associated Theatres Ltd.

Britain To Have Film Supper Shows

M. Barnett of Isleworth, Middlesex, has originated a scheme to add two-hour film shows to other entertainment offered at London inns at supper shows.

Film entertainment will be offered by means of portable projectors loaned to innkeepers whose accoustical arrangements are adequate for talkies.

The entire field will shortly be circularized by letter setting forth this new plan.

"Legitimate Competition" Says Kuykendall Of Air Programs

Speaking of the clashing of interests between air and screen entertainment, Ed. Kuykendall, President of the MPP & D A of America says:

"It is becoming increasingly clear to exhibitors that radio broadcasting is potent though legitimate competition to the motion picture theatres and that the exhibitors' only justifiable complaint seems to be against the use and misuse of motion picture talent and material in broadcasting, as a competing form of entertainment."

Kuykendall adds in his summation:

"How far should our own industry go in building up a rival attraction by supplying its best drawing cards to radio programs? How much damage is done to valuable motion picture properties by use and misuse on radio? How much benefit do we get from radio advertising, and from radio's development of talent now used in pictures? These are the difficult questions that call for sane, analytical consideration, rather than appeals to prejudices and passion.

"We welcome any fair, honest criticism and intelligent comment on motion pictures as such, including casting and character portrayals, but scandal gossip about the private lives of motion picture workers by illegitimate 'news' commentators as a commercial advertisement on the radio seems to us to be completely out of place on sponsored radio programs."

Song-Plugging Ban Under Discussion

Officials of the Federal Trade Commission at Washington will meet with Music Publishers to consider the banning of song plugging and other methods of unfair competition in a proposed code of fair practices for the music industry.

ANTI-TRUST MOVE IN U. S.

(Continued from Page 1)

opoly due to lack of funds.

The Attorney - General's request for funds with which to further the work of his department has been interpreted as a wish to accomplish something tangible in the way of ousting monopolistic tendencies in industries mentioned by him. He claims that a major prosecution costs in the neighborhood of \$150,000.

U. S. executives of the picture industry are said to be in a state of jitters over this new threat.

FIRST ROLE

Lionel Royce, Viennese actor, plays an American gangster in his first Metro-Goldwyn - Mayer picture, "Safety Last," a short subject based on the building racket.

"Lost Horizon" Best In London Poll

Columbia's "Lost Horizon" finished first in a poll conducted by the London Daily Express to determine the best production of 1937.

This Paper Not Published By Any Individual

We wish to correct a recent statement in a trade publication that the Canadian Independent is being published by Mr. Nat A. Taylor.

The mast-head of the paper plainly shows that The Canadian Independent is the official organ of the Independent Theatres Association of which Mr. H. Freedman is President.

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Personalities



Senator George Hurst, character depicted in "Gold Is Where You Find It" says of his son Willie Randolph, "I'm worried about my son Willie. He is set on going into the newspaper business and wants me to buy the Examiner for him. But I don't see how he can make any money at that game." Well, Willie made so much of the yellow metal that to the naked eye he seems made of the stuff himself.

Ronald Reagan, Warner star and former radio announcer holds the record of fast-talking at 400 words per minute. And then they wonder why women invade man's realm.

Bob Burns, the homespun comedian of pictures and radio, during his work in "Wells Fargo", was reminded of the days when he drove a Wells Fargo express wagon in Van Buren, Arkansas. Bob comes near to filling Will Roger's shoes in the amusement field but lacks something of the mental flavor that put Rogers up there alone by himself. He is now writing a humor column for a string of newspapers of which the Toronto Daily Star is one.

During the filming of "Mannequin," Joan Crawford arranged that the camera keep grinding after takes to pick up Spencer Tracy's humorous quips and antics. These were made into a one-reeler called "Sez Me." Spencer got a great kick out of it when invited by Joan to attend the premiere. We have heard tell of other such personal sequences of a more Rabelaisian robustness. Carole Lombard and ex-hubby William Powell have been registered in good-natured but picturesque acting reminiscences of past matrimonial storms. Maybe the public is being cheated.

Said Ida Lupino, "You can't play love scenes if the peak of your own romance is past. I think an actress should always be in love." Ida is probably confusing play and reality. She should have known Duse, Fiske or Bernhart who were all able to create the illusion long after what most moderns would consider the "peak" was passed; and—

Paul Kelly says, "An actor is no greater than the words he has to speak." He should have been present when Sarah Bernhart brought tears to the eyes of an American audience by reciting the alphabet in French. Such was her power over words. Ergo, actors like shoe-makers should stick to their lasts and not try to navigate the deep waters of philosophy.

The old Hollywood leg contest, of which Dietrich is generally conceded to be reigning queen with the most shapely pair of underpinnings, has gone a step lower and degenerated into a foot contest. Cecil Cunningham, Para actress, claims the largest pair of feminine pedal supports extant with a size 9AAA shoe. That puts Garbo out of the running, or maybe one doesn't have to run with such feet — just point them in the general direction in which you are going and you're there.

Bing Crosby has been made a Doctor of Philosophy in music by his Alma Mater, Gonzaga University. We'll admit that he doctored up the old idea of the serenade until it grew from a pastime to a passion, but we never suspected that the peculiar catch in his Adam's apple came from the philosopher's weltanschauung. It just goes to show . . . and now he is to play in a picture called "Doctor Rhythm."

BUILDING NEWS

Cornwall, Ont. — A new 800-seat house is planned to be operated by Famous Players and James Witham, who also jointly operate the Capitol Theatre in Cornwall.

Digby, N.S.—A new 500-seat theatre is now under construction with two stores and space for five offices above, at an estimated cost of \$30,000.

Dunnville, Ont. — Plans for a new theatre to be built by Mrs. Lillian Z. Marks of Fort Erie, have been called off.

Galt, Ont. — The Regent theatre, an 800-seat house has recently been re-seated and renovated.

Galt, Ont. — It is reported that Goldhar and Solway, Toronto exhibitors have secured a long lease on the new theatre now under construction.

Guelph, Ont. — The Capitol Theatre has been completely renovated and re-seated.

Kincardine, Ont. — Mr. L. D. Kniffen of Byron, Ont. has taken over the Bluewater theatre and is giving it a complete overhauling. It will be renamed the Capitol.

Oxford, N.S. — Another link in the F. G. Spencer chain is the Capitol theatre, the lease of which was taken over from Mr. A. E. Smith of St. John, N.B. Mr. Smith is manager of the Regal Film Exchange in St. John.

Ottawa, Ont.—The Somerset theatre, recently opened is receiving its finishing touches in completion. Mr. Sprachman, architect, and Mr. Falk, builder, are both returning to Ottawa to check the air conditioning and to file certificate of completion. Kaplan and Sprachman, Toronto theatre architects, planned and supervised the job.

Quebec Censorship Assailed

(Continued from Page 1)

cutting of scenes.

Warner Bros'. Montreal exchange is now attempting to have "The Life of Emile Zola" passed over the original ban by submitting it to the scissors.

'Forsyte Saga' Condensed For M.G.M. Feature

Galsworthy's sequence of novels known as the "Forsyte Saga" will be produced in Hollywood by Metro as a single feature picture after a process of condensation. Frank Davis will be in charge of production that was previously planned for England.

Toronto, Ont. — Two new theatre sites were bought by the Kingsway Theatres — one, for a 600-seat house to cost \$50,000 and one, for a 1,000-seat house at an estimated cost of \$60,000.

Vernan, Ont. — The Empress theatre will be given a general renovation and the seating capacity will be increased from 600 to 900 chairs.

Welland, Ont. — A new 1,000-seat theatre is planned by Famous Players.

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TWICE TOLD TALES

Positively not a Goldwyn story: The music staff was in deep conference. "Right about here," a lyricist murmured, running his finger along script-page 22, "we could play very softly a movement from Schubert's 'Unfinished Symphony.' The big boss, who was in amiable mood, waved his cigar. "No hurry boys. We don't begin shooting for ten days yet, so you can ring up that feller Schubert (catch him before he goes to lunch) and tell him to finish the job." Informed that Schubert was dead he looked annoyed. "Tch Tch," he muttered, shaking his head. "There it goes again. What a staff I got, trying to save me shocks on account they think I've a bad heart, and keeping important news from me!"

* * *

A little la-de-da actress was playing the role of a maid in a new film and the director was showing her how to serve the plates for an important scene.

"Look," he said, "you must serve from the left and remove the plates from the right." "Oh, that's all right with me," said the actress "I'm not the least bit superstitious."

An actor quarreled with his wife before leaving for the studio one morning, relates Irving Cahn. Seeking to placate her he returned home in the evening with a box of candy. Holding it behind his back he murmured: "Darling, I have a present here for the person I love the best in all the world." "What is it," barked the still irate wife, "a box of cigars?"

* * *

Overheard at the Troc: "I found out that Jean was two-timing me—so I gave her up instead of Helen."

* * *

Joe Lewis at the Frolics tells about his little brother. "The kid isn't exactly a thief," jests Joe, "he just has a habit of finding things before people lose them!"

* * *

It was apparent that Robert Benchley hadn't had much sleep when he arrived on the set the other morning. Looked around through half-closed eyes spotted someone. "Who is that?" he asked. "Why, that's your stand-in," said Robert Montgomery. "My, my," was the reply, "how refreshed Mr. Benchley looks this morning."

* * *

Hollywood, says Jane Pickens, is where opportunity knocks just once but your friends knock all the time.

DIGEST of REVIEWS

COLUMBIA

I'LL TAKE ROMANCE—

A Grace Moore vehicle with plenty of good operatic music. Melvyn Douglass satisfying as usual. Miss Moore not at her best but picture should acquit itself nobly.

GRAND NATIONAL

WALLABY JIM OF THE ISLANDS—

Second in a series starring Geo. Houston with a formula story that will get by as second in neighbors. This one is an improvement over its predecessor and Houston has a glorious voice.

HERE'S FLASH CASEY—

Fair little action story about a newspaper photographer starring Eric Linden and Boots Mallory. Pic. satisfactory with strong support.

RENFREW OF THE MOUNTED—

Here is a good second pic. on any program. It looks like G.N. has a coming star in Jimmie Newill who has both looks and a voice.

WARNER BROS.

HOLLYWOOD HOTEL—

Without a doubt the best musical in years. Should prove one of the big money-grossers of the year.

UNIVERSAL

YOU'RE A SWEETHEART—

Grand entertainment! A musical with plenty of laughs and Alice Fay delivering in her grandest style. She never photographed better. This should be headed for good returns.

20th CENTURY-FOX

CHECKERS—

A satisfactory Jane Withers vehicle about horse racing. In addition this pic. has Stuart Erwin and Una Merkel in the cast.

LOVE AND HISSES—

This one has good gags, good music and is undoubtedly headed for B.O. Simone Simon's voice comes through.

REGAL

BOY OF THE STREETS—

This Monogram pic. is a good programmer starring Jackie Cooper. Should do its best business in neighbors.

WE'RE ONLY YOUNG ONCE—

First of a series starts out with a bang and will please generally. If subsequent ones are as good, they should prove popular.

PARAMOUNT

TRUE CONFESSION—

Here is a laugh-provoker that means business at the B.O. Carole Lombard and Fred MacMurray make a great team and John Barrymore all but steals the pic. with his eccentric character work.

BULLDOG DRUMMOND'S REVENGE—

A grade B pic. suitable for duals. Satisfactory with good support.

LOVE ON TOAST—

Much the worst grade B Para. has yet released. Old slapstick routine without star names.

EVERY DAY IS A HOLIDAY—

A good May West-er which should do well wherever there are West fans.

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'Hisses' Rates Cheers

Even the blase motion pic. critics have let loose with raves over Darryl Zanuck's "Love and Hisses." "Bigger and better than 'Wake Up and Live' and faster and funnier too," they say.

**Hollywood Extends
Air Activities**

In spite of exhibitor squawks and disturbing reports of recession in broadcasting in the East, Hollywood is extending itself in the radio entertainment field.

New shows for the early part of the New Year are Mickey Mouse Theatre of the Air, which is already under way, Pond's Dramatic Series called "Those We Love" and a resumption of the Rudy Valee hour.

New York is showing some apprehension over the expansion of the West as a focal point for broadcasting.

**"Panay" Newsreel
In Great Demand**

The Universal Newsreel showing the bombing and sinking of the U.S.S. Panay by Japanese air bombs, was featured on many New York marquees, during the week of my visit to that city. Back in Toronto, I find it showing at the Uptown and Eglinton theatres as a special feature.

One print of this undeclared war Newsreel had been forwarded to official Washington, and it is understood that certain suggested cuts were made before the film was released. These cuts are said to have depicted the continued dropping of bombs after the boat had been seriously damaged and was in evident distress. These alleged deletions were said to have been made to avoid the raising of war hysteria. The film as it stands runs 21 minutes. Some protests have been made in the U.S. against the unofficial censoring of the film, as it is considered a valuable document in the troubled international situation, the facts of which should be available to the people.

**Air Commentators
Under Fire**

Darryl Zanuck recently issued a warning against air commentators. His contention was that much harm is done the industry and the reputation of motion picture personalities by these air gossipers.

Harry M. Warner, President of Warner Bros. Pictures Inc., answered this attack by stating that a certain executive of another company who attacked commentators was not speaking on behalf of the Motion Picture Producers Ass'n., nor for the Warner organization.

Mr. Zanuck responded to the Warner quip by saying that he spoke for himself and for his organization, but ventured to suggest that he also voiced the senti-

**Italy Finances Theatre Bldg.
By \$5,000,000 Loan Fund**

Italian exhibitors will be extended credit by the government in a building expansion plan to cover the remotest parts of the country with motion picture theatres playing Italian propaganda and entertainment product.

This move is considered to be part of a plan to freeze out foreign films from the Italian market and to control the tone and tenor of Italian film fare.

Recent unofficial pressure was exerted to prevent M G M from carrying out a plan for establishing a circuit in Italy for showing M G M features.

ments of most producers and constructive - thinking people when he declared against "destroyers of character and property" by "unwarranted attacks on Hollywood and its individuals."

Jimmy Fidler in a recent broadcast styled this protest as an attempt to feed to the public only the saccharine stuff concocted by paid press agents. He went on to say that the public has shown a very real interest in motion picture people and product and are entitled to the truth both in news and in criticism. That advertising plugs and press-agented stories

**Cagney's Warner
Contract Validated
By Court**

James Cagney will return to the Warner Bros. fold as a result of a decision by the California Supreme Court validating the contract between him and Warner Bros. This contract was voided in 1935 by the Los Angeles Superior Court, following which decision, Cagney worked with Grand National in two pictures and was set to begin work in "Angels With Dirty Faces" January 15 for a flat fee of \$150,000.

Cagney returns to the Warners on March 14, it is stated and will resume work shortly thereafter. Warners have agreed to allow Cagney to do "Angels" for G.N.

NEW CONTRACT

Director William Thiele has been given a new long-term contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

would eventually turn the public interest away from the industry and therefore is a more damaging policy than honest forthright comment and criticism. He ended up by saying that as long as President Roosevelt and his family did not put themselves beyond reach of such comment, surely Hollywood shouldn't hope to give the industry nor its people a greater protection than even the chief executive enjoys.

TORONTO THEATRES FIRST RUN

IMPERIAL—"TRUE CONFESSION"—PARAMOUNT
—Carole Lombard, Fred MacMurray, John Barrymore.

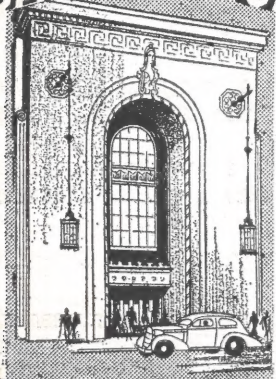
UPTOWN—"LOVE AND HISSES"—FOX—Ben Bernie, Walter Winchell, Simone Simon.

LOEW'S—"NAVY BLUE AND GOLD"—REGAL—Robert Young, James Stewart, Florence Rice.
"LIVE AND LEARN"—REGAL—Robert Montgomery, Rosalind Russel.

RADIO CITY—"SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT"—GRAND NATIONAL—James Cagney, Evelyn Daw.

SHEA'S—"MANHATTAN MERRY-GO-ROUND"—EMPIRE—Phil Regan, Leo Carrillo, Ann Dvorak.
"PORTIA ON TRIAL"—EMPIRE—Walter Abel, Frieda Inescort.

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U.S. Admission Tax Figures Show B.O. To Be O.K.

Washington figures in theatre admission taxes show collections for the month of November are at a high peak. The gross was \$2,242,573, which is \$50,000 more than the previous peak of December, 1936. The U. S. November income topped the one of October by \$276,000 and was \$637,000 more than November of last year. The total tax take for the eleven months, ending November, 1937, was \$18,684,004 as against \$16,262,907 for the corresponding period of 1936.

Subtle Propaganda

In a French picture called "People of France" a new colorful method was used as anti-Fascist propaganda. Mussolini is shown talking with a voice like the booming of machine guns and cannonading and the sound of a mad dog barking accompanies a Hitler speech.

Ethel Barrymore Considers Paramount Picture Offer

It is said that Ethel Barrymore may accept an offer from Paramount to appear in one picture. Adolph Zukor is in contact with her agent, John McCormick, and it looks as if a deal is being perfected.

French Producers Protest Italian Ban

The French motion picture industry is seeking government aid to fight the allegedly unfair censorship practiced against French feature pictures in Italy. There exists a friendly reciprocal film arrangement between these two countries, that is presumed to be violated by the present discrimination now practiced against French pictures. The French producers claim that the Italian-German-Japanese film pact is the basis of such discrimination. A dramatic example of what they consider "unfair" censorship is the banning of "La Grande Illusion," a French picture that won an award as a superior production at the recent Venice Film Festival. A communication of protest and plea for government aid has been submitted to the proper department by French producers.

Ted Healy Passes

Funeral services were held at St. Augustine church, Culver City, Cal. for Ted Healy following his sudden death. Coroner, F. A. Nance pronounced "death by natural causes" due to heart failure and lung congestion. Requiem Mass was said and he was interred in Cavalry cemetery, Rev. Father John O'Donnell officiating.

Unions Cross Wires

"Pins and Needles" current Broadway success, produced with a cast of members of the Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is having trouble with the actors' union Equity.

Equity denies the right of the cast to work in the show business without union affiliations, while executives of the Ladies' Garment Workers claim that each member is already a member of one union, therefore, is eligible to work.

"Pins and Needles" first started as an amateur play. Its potential quality for commercial entertainment was recognized and it was moved to a Broadway house where it was slated for one night a week, but a general clamor for tickets on the part of the public, has forced plans for a regular nightly show with the usual two matinees. Then came the tangle with Equity.

FANNY BRICE SONGS HEIRED BY DAUGHTER

Fanny Brice's famous songs are going to live on in the theatrical world through the vocal cords of her daughter, Frances.

Until the girl made her acting debut in "Rosalie," Miss Brice had refused to allow her daughter to appear on either stage or screen. The reason was that for the past seven years she has been coaching Frances in her original singing technique, in the hope that later she could take her mother's place. Miss Brice has taught her all of her numbers from "My Man" to "Yiddle on the Middle of Your Fiddle."

The Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer actress, who is now appearing in "Everybody Sing," hopes that her child will be starred in the screen version of Fanny's colorful life, which she is now writing.

ATTEMPTED SAFEBREAK

An attempt was made one night last week to break into the safe of the Crown theatre, Toronto. The combination became jammed so that an expert had to be called in to open it the following day.

Film Critics Ten Best In Their Order Of Choice

The Life of Emile Zola.
The Good Earth.
Captains Courageous.
Lost Horizon.
A Star Is Born.
Romeo and Juliet.
Stage Door.
Dead End.
Winterset.
The Awful Truth.

Connie Guns For Fidler

Constance Bennett is planning a \$250,000 alleged slander suit against Jimmy Fidler, Hollywood air commentator.

Gab-artists have been getting Hollywood goats recently, and there has been much talk of gagging these light tossers of intimate lingo, but the one-sided conversational ball has been rolling merrily along the ether waves in spite of protests and threats.

The Bennett slander suit was said by her attorney, Barry Brannon, to be based on "malicious defamation of character."

French Prizes Announced

Film prizes in the awards of the International Exposition in Paris were announced as follows:

The grand prize to "La Mort Du Cygne", produced and directed by Jean Benoit-Levy, who was the producer of "La Maternelle."

Prizes for short subjects went to J. C. Bernard for "Metamorphose," Maurice Cloche for "Symphonie Classique," and J. C. Bernard for "L'Efford Algerian."

Jean Painleve and Dr. Commandon received award for scientific shorts—Painleve for "Voyage Dans Le Ciel" and Dr. Commandon for "Phagocyte."

Employees of Famous Players Canadian Corp. received an extra week's salary as a holiday bonus, Mr. N. L. Nathanson, president of the Company, announced.

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UP-TO-THE-MINUTE
MOVIE NEWS

Ferdinand Gottschalk and Bert Roach are in the cast of Paramount's "Stolen Heaven," music drama, featuring Olympe Bradna, Gene Raymond, and Lewis Stone. Gottschalk plays a jewel salesman, and Roach a store detective, in a Viennese establishment.

Hollywood thrilled to a new real romance in its professional ranks during Christmas week when the marriage of James Dunn and Frances Gifford was dated to take place New Year's Day. Dunn, young star in many comedy-dramas, recently headlined "Love in a Basement" for RKO Radio. Miss Gifford, signed several months ago by the same studio, is an attractive new comer to the screen. She was one of the girls in "Stage Door," and is to be one of those in "Having Wonderful Time."

"Federal Pen", a story of Leavenworth prison will be filmed by Paramount with a cast to be headed by Ray Milland, Frances Farmer and Akim Tamiroff.

Franciska Gaal, who co-stars with Frederic March in "The Buccaneer," is Hungary's largest income-tax payer, but she says her European salary, on which the tax is paid, is "buttons" compared to most Hollywood salaries.

The first invitation from a fan to a player for the 1940 Olympic games in Japan arrived recently with a batch of oriental mail at Claudette Colbert's portable dressing room on the set of "Bluebeard's Eighth Wife."

Richard Dix, screen star whose fame is indelibly associated in the minds of millions through his portrayal of Yancey Cravat in RKO Radio's unforgettable "Cimarron," returns to this company's banner after a short absence. He has been signed to a long-term con-

tract and will have for his first assignment an outdoor role.

The season's cinematic furore is being created by Walt Disney's first feature length production, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" which made its world debut during Christmas Week in Los Angeles. The show, in Technicolor, with dialogue, dancing, several songs and an ambitious musical background, is hailed as a modern marvel.

Peter Bull, English actor, who will create the role of Gamin in "Marie Antoinette," starring Norma Shearer, spent his first day in Hollywood after arriving from London, on a tour of movie star homes.

Planned as a starring vehicle for Franciska Gaal, Paramount has purchased "Soubrette," a new unproduced play by Jacques Deval, author of "Tovarich."

"Dangerous to Know" has been set as the definite release title for Paramount's current production in which Gail Patrick, Anna May Wong, Akim Tamiroff and Lloyd Nolan are featured. Robert Florey is directing.

W. C. Fields, now fully recovered from a cold, is working on his new picture script, "Things Began to Happen."

Lewis Stone, whose last picture for Paramount was "The Patriot," directed by Ernst Lubitsch in 1928, returned to that studio recently when he signed a contract to play a featured lead in "Stolen Heaven."

DESERT HOME

Frank Morgan has purchased property at Palm Springs upon which he will build a winter home.

Martha Raye
Biography

A cavernous mouth . . . a nomadic face . . . excessive vitality . . . and a sense of humor . . . all catapulted Martha Raye to the top of the Hollywood ladder . . . rated as one of the greatest performers Hollywood has seen . . . achieved stardom in exactly one year.

She wanted work in pictures . . . and she got it . . . was a sensation in "Rhythm on the Range" . . . and since has been working in as many as three pictures at a time . . . was a hit in "The Big Broadcast of 1937" . . . got top billing in her third picture . . . "Hideaway Girl" . . . then featured in "College Holiday," "Waikiki Wedding," "Mountain Music," "Artists and Models," and "Double or Nothing" . . . given leave to do personal appearances . . . and packed them to the rafters all over the country . . . success of tour led to decision to star her in more pictures . . . both solo and with Bob Burns.

In addition to pictures, is featured on the radio . . . all of which means she has to keep going from 12 to 15 hours a day . . . so much in demand that Adolph Zukor finally stepped in personally . . . ordered three weeks rest for her . . .

All of which happened at the age of 21 . . . has just reached her majority . . . was unmarried until a few weeks ago . . . and is now hailed as a combination of Marie Dressler, Clara Bow, Norah Bayes, Fannie Brice

Exhib. Thinks Fast

During a particularly heavy rain-storm, Mr. Harry Clarfield, owner of the Queens Theatre, Toronto, discovered that his roof was leaking and that one section of seats were damp. It was impossible to have a repair job done during the storm and likewise impossible to admit people to the seats affected. Mr. Clarfield solved the impasse by getting enough boys off the street to come in free and sit in those seats so there would be no embarrassment to the management or to paying customers. We hope the boys didn't come away with a dampened ardor for the movies, and that they didn't have a hard time explaining to mama. Anyhow the roof is water-tight now says Harry.

and all the rest of them . . . but after comparisons they find that she is still Martha Raye, a new personality.

Father Pete Reed and Mother Peggy Hooper . . . old family vaudeville team . . . Martha born in dressing room in Butte, Mont. . . made her first stage appearance at ripe age of 3 . . .

Hollywood discovered her by accident . . . Director and producer happened to be in cafe at same time where she was working . . . They agreed she was a triple-threat, singing, dancing, and comedy . . . and just what the doctor ordered to play opposite Bob Burns in his first picture . . .

On the set, she is clowning constantly, keeping fellow workers amused . . .

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